

**AAUW** advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

## Issue Highlights

Branch Programs	2
Public Policy	3
State Conference	4
Announcements	5
Interest Groups	6
Branch Contacts	8



## January

- 3 Branch Program**
- 10 Nonfiction Group
- 16 Great Decisions
- 18 Morning Lit Group
- 19 AAUW-VA Lobby Day (tentative)
- 25 Movie Meetup
- 26 Brown Bag Books

## February

- 12 Branch Program**
- 15 Morning Lit Group
- 20 Great Decisions
- 22 Movie Meetup
- 23 Brown Bag Books

## From the President

Dear AAUW Friends,



*President and Josie.*

Progress is not always linear, as frustrating as that may be. Last year at this time we were looking forward to the roll-out of a vaccine that would beat back the pandemic and let us resume activities we once took for granted. We enjoyed a brief sensation of relief in early summer, until the delta mutation set us back. We got booster shots, now omicron challenges us.

As AAUW members we engage with pressing issues of our times—social justice, gender equality, voting rights—and experience the same frustration when we seem to make headway, only to be blown back again.

It would be easy to fall into despair. Fortunately, we have the antidote to despair: the rich resource of our fellow members. Conversations with AAUW friends are uplifting because so often someone offers a new insight, an unknown (to me) fact, an opportunity for action. And it is just a pleasure to talk with this bunch of intelligent, creative, and humorous women. (Because it is good to laugh now and then, no matter how bad things seem!)

So let's dust ourselves off and prepare to start 2022 like we did 2021: with hope, optimism, and a determination that together we can make a difference for the better in our world. It just might not happen all at once.

Our first step will be our January 3 program at which we can talk to our state delegates about the Virginia legislative agenda. We will meet by Zoom to hear their priorities and share our interests. Please join in! Registration information is on page 2.

Until then, please keep safe, keep healthy, and keep in touch.

## Upcoming Branch Programs

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*Delegate Ken Plum*

### Online Preview of 2022 Virginia Legislative Session

**Monday, January 3, 2022  
7:30 PM – 9 PM  
Virtual Event via Zoom  
Preregistration Required**



*Delegate Mark Keam*

What will the changes in the Virginia legislature mean this year? What are the chances for passage of AAUW-VA priorities such as paid family leave, child care, and paid sick leave? Click [here](#) for a full list of the priorities. Come with your questions for a lively exchange of insights.

The program is co-sponsored with the Patrick Henry Library in Vienna. Attendance is limited, and advanced registration with the library is required. To register, click [here](#). A link to Zoom will be sent to registrants before the event.

[Note: See article on page 5 for related information.]



*Joyce Turk*

### The Art of Travel

**Saturday, February 12, 2022  
2:00 PM doors open  
2:15 PM, program begins  
Patrick Henry Library\*\*  
428 Maple Avenue E., Vienna**

**Joyce Turk** is a pastel artist who has traveled extensively. She has had a career in international livestock science that has taken her around the world many times, from the jungles of Borneo to the Himalayas, from African Savannah to the altiplano of South America.

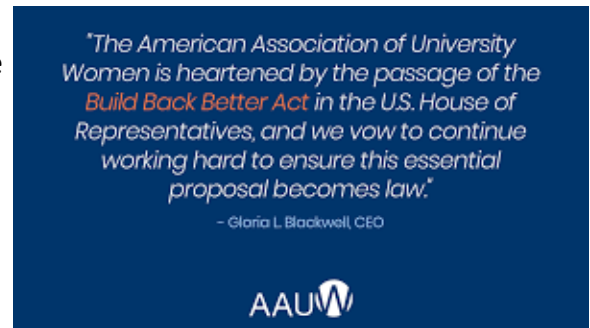
She always takes her art supplies wherever she goes. The result is a portfolio of beautiful paintings of animals, people, and landscapes. She will share her work with us and tell us about her travel adventures. She is a member of The Vienna Arts Society and will also tell us about the work of this organization.

**\*\*Please note:** Masks are required inside all Fairfax County facilities. Because the library limits attendance to 30 at meetings, please [contact us](#) beforehand if you plan to attend. Write the word "Program" in the Subject line.

### Action Needed to Support Paid Leave and Childcare

Janine Greenwood from the Reston-Herndon Branch provided the summary below of the November 22, 2021, Zoom meeting of the five AAUW branches that are included in Congressman Gerry Connolly's 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District:

- Fairfax City                      Vienna Area
- Reston-Herndon                Woodbridge
- Springfield-Annandale



Public policy representatives for these branches discussed the Build Back Better Bill, which has passed the House and is now at the Senate. The discussion focused on the provisions that support childcare and paid family leave, which are AAUW policy priorities. Two important action items came out of the meeting.

First, Virginia senators need to hear from constituents how vital these provisions are for women and families. Use the following links to contact our senators.

#### Senator Mark R. Warner

#### Senator Tim Kaine

Second, Rep. Connolly emphasized that we must act to ensure that the Virginia State House uses the stimulus money from the federal government and the Virginia surplus to invest in education, equity, and other critical needs. AAUW-VA Public Policy Co-chairs will be reaching out to the branches to aid these efforts.

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### AAUW-VA Prepares for 2022 General Assembly Session and Lobby Day



*Virginia State House, Richmond*

AAUW-VA is preparing to meet with Virginia legislators for the in-person State Lobby Day in Richmond on January 19. On a Zoom meeting December 1, we reviewed our three legislative priorities.

**1. Paid Family/Medical Leave**, SB1, already introduced by Sen. Jennifer Boysko. AAUW-VA is allied with the Virginia Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy on this issue.

**2. Paid Sick Days** to build on legislation passed earlier that provided paid sick days for 30,000 home health-care workers covered by Medicaid. AAUW-VA is working with the Coalition of Virginians for Paid Sick Leave under the leadership of the Interfaith Center for Public Policy.

**3. Sexual Harassment in the Workplace**, the Del. Vivian Watts bill failed to report in the Senate Judiciary Committee on a vote that included Sen.

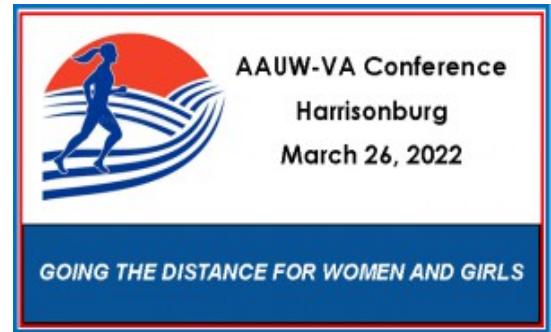
Chap Petersen voting No (6Y-7N). AAUW-VA Public Policy Co-chair Susan Burk told Del. Watts that AAUW-VA supports this legislation and hopes for an update on this bill.

The Greater Richmond Branch will host an evening reception January 18 for Virginia's women legislators. Given pandemic uncertainties, however, Lobby Day plans will finalize closer to the date.

## State Conference: Going the Distance for Women and Girls

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You are invited to attend the AAUW-VA 2022 State Conference, which will be held in two parts on March 26 and April 30. Nadine James, AAUW-VA VP for Program, and Sylvia Rogers, Conference Committee Chair, have arranged a memorable conference — chock full of engaging, mission-related speakers and topics; opportunities to ask questions of the speakers; time to socialize; and even some opportunities to win door prizes. We encourage all AAUW-VA members to mark their calendars and plan to participate in both events.



### Conference Overview

#### In Person, Saturday, March 26, 2022

Part 1 of the state conference will be held in person at the **Hotel Madison** and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For those who arrive Friday, March 25, there will be a special evening social event beginning at 7:30 p.m. to *Reacquaint! Restore! Renew!*

#### Virtually, Saturday, April 30, 2022

Part 2 of the state conference will be the AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting and will be virtual via Zoom. The starting time is TBD.

### Registration Fees

The AAUW-VA State Board is pleased to announce that because operating budget costs were lower between March 2020 and this fall due to the pandemic, we are returning some of the unspent funds to members in the form of a lower conference registration fee, which includes morning beverages and lunch. We'll let you know when the conference registration opens in January.

AAUW-VA Members	\$25 if paid by March 4; \$30 if paid March 5-11
Students	\$30*
Other Non-AAUW-VA Attendees	\$35

\*Branches may consider sponsoring the attendance of student/s from C/U partners they interface with.

### Guest Rooms

For attendees who may need or wish to arrive on March 25 and spend the night, a block of hotel rooms has been reserved for \$119/night + taxes until March 4. Reservations should be made as soon as possible because additional rooms may not be available when the block sells out. There are two ways to make a reservation:

- Call the hotel's main line: 1-540-564-0200 and press 1 to make a reservation. When asked, provide the Group ID: 3217285 and AAUW.
- Reserve online: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=3217285>

## Branch Announcements

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### AAUW-VA Co-VPs for Public Policy Urge Follow Up



*Susan Burk*



*Denise Murden*

On behalf of AAUW-VA, the state Co-VPs for Public Policy, Susan Burk and Denise Murden, sent a letter on November 30 to every re-elected and most newly elected Virginia Assembly delegates. The letter described our public policy priorities and offered our assistance in advancing legislation that supports them.

Now Susan and Denise are asking us to follow up with a personal communication to our own delegates. It's as simple as sending an email or calling to introduce yourself as an AAUW-VA and Vienna Area Branch member and urging your delegate to support the issues you are advocating. See the article on page 3 for the specific issues that are our priorities.

Delegates Ken Plum and Mark Keam represent many

in our branch. Their emails are as follows:

- [DelKPlum@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelKPlum@house.virginia.gov)
- [DelMKeam@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelMKeam@house.virginia.gov)

If yours is a different delegate, use [Who's My Legislator](#) to get the correct email.

The 2022 legislative session begins in mid-January, so emails do not need to be sent until closer to then.

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### Helping Women in Fairfax County, 2021

For some 30 years, our branch has supported Artemis House annually as our project to benefit women in need in our community. With two locations, this is the only Fairfax County sponsored emergency shelter for women and children fleeing domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking.

At the November branch program and in donations sent to me, members donated the following:

- \$1145 in gift cards, mostly for multi-purpose stores like Target
- Amazon purchases of \$135 for items from the Artemis House Amazon Wish List
- Numbers of personal care items
- Four heavy bags of house cleaning or sanitizing supplies.



*Envelope containing donated gift cards.*

Ashli Melder, Artemis House Community Coordinator, expressed her deep appreciation for our contributions when I gave her the donations. I estimate the total donation to be at least \$1500.

Thank you to Vienna Area Branch members for your generous contributions to Artemis House. We are not so many but clearly powerful in commitment to our community.



## Interest Groups

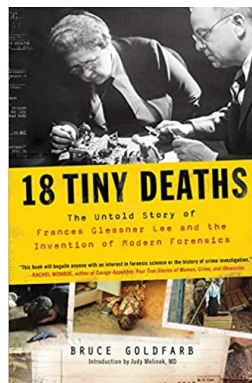
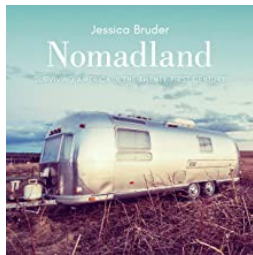


Groups planning to meet in person may need to change to Zoom.  
Watch for an email closer to the meeting time to confirm the plans.  
If you are new to a group, contact the chair to receive email notices.

### Brown Bag Books

January 26, 1PM

*Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder  
The phenomenon of older Americans who adopted transient lifestyles traveling around the United States in search of seasonal work.



February 23, 1 PM

Location TBD

*18 Tiny Deaths* by Bruce Goldfarb  
A captivating blend of history, women in science, and true crime - the story of how one woman changed the face of forensics forever.

### Morning Literature

January 18, 9:30 AM

Dianne will lead the discussion on *The Other Black Girl*, by Zakiya Dalila Harris.

Please let Laurie know if you plan to attend.



February 15, 9:20 AM

Kristin r will lead the discussion on *Hamnet*, by Maggie O'Farrell.

Please let Candace know if you plan to attend.

## Interest Groups (continued)

### Great Decisions

January 16, 2 PM via Zoom

#### Outer Space

The launch of Sputnik 1 in October 1957 marked the beginning of the space era and of the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union. In the 21st century, there are many more participants in space, including countries such as India and China, and commercial companies such as SpaceX. How will the United States fare in a crowded outer space?

Discussion leaders for future sessions will be selected at this meeting.



February 20, 2 PM via Zoom

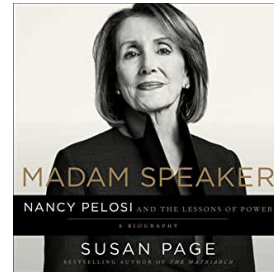
#### Changing Demographics

The world experienced remarkable demographic changes in the 20th century that continue today and have resulted in far-reaching social, economic, political, and environmental consequences all over the globe. These consequences are creating mounting challenges to development efforts, security, the environment, as well as the sustainability of human population.

### Nonfiction Book Group

January 10, 7 PM via Zoom

We will discuss *Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power* by Susan Page.



Next date: March 14

*Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World* by Simon Winchester

### Movie Meetup Group

The group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Those on the distribution list will be notified in advance whether we will meet in person at Cinema Arts for the early show or online via Zoom at 1 PM.

Please email the chair to be included on the distribution list.

Next dates: January 25  
February 22



### Branch Program Schedule, 2021-2022

September 11	10 AM	Annual Open House
October 19	7 PM	Fighting Climate Change in Fairfax County
November 16	7 PM	Mobile Professionals: A Career in Architecture
December 4	Noon	Annual Branch Luncheon (Canceled)
January 3	7:30 PM	Preview of 2022 VA Legislative Session
February 12	2 PM	The Art of Travel



Schedule is subject to change; future newsletters will include updates.

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### Vienna Area Branch Leaders, 2021-2022

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### AAUW Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.